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Isiah 41:6 "They helped everyone his neighbor and everyone said to his brother, 'Be of good courage."

Intro. The experiences of the week have suggested a good text for our consideration this morning.
Morrison's offer to pull the tree down.
The loan of rope, block and tackle and personal strength.
Schielkie coming with big truck and two horses but with no men. All pitched in and helped load.
Text-They helped everyone his neighbor; and everyone said to his brother, 'Be of good courage'.

This text embodies the general law governing the condition of man in all his social, political, economical and spiritual relations. This law makes for the extension of universal good will, without which social relations would be impossible, our great industrial and commercial enterprises unheard of and our home life reduced to the animal level of forest and jungle. Without a disposition to lend a helping hand we would have no vocabulary to express sentiments of sympathy, and spiritual unity would be supplanted by intense selfishness.

The fact of the complexity and interdependence of human life need hardly be considered at length. Each and evry separate individual ixistance touches its environment in a multitude of contacts. Each one of us like the palm tree we cut down. The tree held to earth by thousands of little roots. Each one of us is sustained in our earthly existance by thousands of ties that bind us together.

Increased enlightenment intensifies the complexities of life and makes each more dependent upon others.

It seems to be the great purpose of civilization to draw men more closely together in the harmonizing influence of social, political, commercial and religious life.

Intelligence icreases our points of contact, and education leads us to a better comprehension of our relation to God, nature and to our fellow man.

This mighty principle of cooperation, of helping and encouraging one another, is impelling us forward and upward to a condition of greater perfection in the sight of Master Spirit of the Universe.

Proverbs 7:8"Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof."

Intro.

2. And one of the wonderful things about it all is, that the individual, while but a little unit of the great whole, nevertheless is priveleged to develpp and perfect his indivisuality as he could not under the old rule of each for himself.

Our text taken from that portion of Isaiah which sets forth the fact of how God raised up Cyrus and caused the other nations of the world to contribute to the welfare and advancement of Israel

This law of universal good will and neighborly helpfulness as it is being worked out in the experience of civilization bears testimony that all the real advancement ever made has been along the line of righteousness. In all the great movements of history is plainly seen the hand of God in the affairs of men.

All the great men of history, the leaders of their people, were a message to their followers to "be of good courage". They aroused a hope for a better tomorrow and are to us today an inspiration to face the light of a a trues faith, a more exalted conception of God and a better appreciation of life itself.

Common needs and common interests give rise to community of thot, community of thot gives rise to united endeavor, and united endeavor to the condition of interdependence and mutual helpfulness.

Racial and geographical prejudices give way, to a more mutual and sympathetic understanding.

Narrow creeds and denominational prejudices give way to community churches.

The more freely this law of God is permitted to work the greater the demand is made upon human talents. God not only gave us talents to use but as mutual helpfulness and good will increase there is created greater demands for the service and application of our talents. And the busier our telescopes and our microscopes are kept working the more evident does it become that this law of God runs thru all nature.

From this brief consideration of the text, each one of us may derive great encouragement as to his personal importance in the economy of life. Each of us occupies his appointed place and upon each one rests a responsibility for the performance of his duty from day to day.

Is yours an example of encouragement to others?

Are you helping your neighbors along the way of life?

We are nearing the last service in the old building as it has been for many years.

I do not gegret it for "Better is the end of a thing than is the beginning thereof."

Some say that years ago the churches were better than they are now. I doubt it seriously.

Better attended.

By the members themselves, yes.

But on a basis of rivalry and fighting one another over doctrines, etc.

Attendance today is on the basis of mutual good will and attraction.

More outsiders attending church now than in former years. Class distinctions removed now.

Better supported? I doubt it. Weir supported the minister for several years. Never was the financial system so well worked as at present.

Ours is also a better equipment, in spite of looks.

Picture what it once was.

Our improved old building will be far better than the new ever was.

Oh, let us everyone work together, helping to make this a Church of Christ indeed, reaching out to the entire community in helpful service and increasing the degree of good will and neighborliness in our midst.